

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 and 20-35 are pending. Claims 1-18 and 29-31 are allowed. Claims 20-29, 32 and 34-35 have been amended. Claim 19 has been cancelled. In view of the following, all pending claims are in condition for allowance. If, after considering this response, the Examiner does not agree that all of the claims are allowable, he is requested to schedule a teleconference with the Applicants' attorney to further the prosecution of the application.

Objection to claims 29 and 34-35

Claims 29 and 34-35 have been amended to correct informalities.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 21 and 23 have been rewritten in independent form. Claim 22 has been amended to depend from claim 21, and claim 24 has been amended to depend from claim 23. As indicated by the Examiner, claims 21-24 are now in condition for allowance.

Rejection of claims 20, 25-26 and 32-33 under §102(b) as being anticipated by any one of Vaisanen et al. (US 5,118,965), Larson et al. (US 4,812,687), and Ooya (JP 1-279624)

Claims 20 and 25-26

Claim 20 and 25-26, as amended, are patentable by virtue of their dependencies from independent claim 21.

Claim 32

Claim 32, as amended, is a method claim including similar limitations as those recited in allowable claim 21. Therefore, claim 32 is patentable for reasons similar to those for allowable claim 21.

Claim 33

Claim 33 is patentable by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 32.

**Rejection of claims 27-28 and 34-35 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over any
one of Vaisanen, Larson, and Ooya**

Claims 27-28 and 34-35 are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 21 and 32.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, claims 1-18 and 20-35 are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

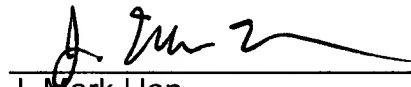
The Examiner is authorized to charge the \$200 extra independent claim fee to deposit account number 07-1897.

If, after considering this response, the Examiner does not agree that all of the claims are allowable, then it is respectfully requested that the Examiner schedule a phone interview with the Applicants' attorney at (425) 455-5575.

Dated this 4TH day of May, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

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